

*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

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## **DANBURY RESIDENTS HOST FREE CONCERT TO BENEFIT HAITI**

DANBURY, CT, (June 7, 2006) — On Saturday June 17<sup>th</sup>, at 7 pm, at the Newtown Meeting House, grassroots Connecticut-based organization, Marycare Inc., will host a musical benefit featuring the talented duo piano-playing of local musicians Jan Jesse and Diane Cooke. All donations will go toward further strengthening Marycare's continued efforts to aid needy residents of Haiti, one of the western hemisphere's poorest and most politically volatile countries.

For twelve years, Marycare has worked with residents of Haiti to provide health care, educational, and economic development programs, primarily in the village of Jacquesyl on Haiti's northeast coast. Marycare also has outreach programs in Nigeria and Argentina.

Directors Tom and Mary Lou Larkin of Danbury, and founders Sherman Malone and Anne Bates of New Haven, hope to raise awareness as well as funds to support some of their current projects in Haiti which include: stocking supplies for primary health care needs such as refrigerated vaccines, childbirth kits, and essential medicines; funding a full time doctor, nurse and lab technician on site; teaching ongoing health and nutrition programs; operating two grade schools; teaching fishermen boat building and motor repair; providing solar energy equipment for freezing fish for market by a women's cooperative; and assisting with safe birthing techniques, among other efforts.

“We work hands-on with the community to find out what their basic needs are and assist them accordingly.” said medical director Mary Lou Larkin, a pediatric nurse who works at Jacobi Medical Center in the Bronx. “Much of our work is in primary care, providing medical assistance and supplies as well as teaching healthy birthing techniques, parenting basics, and disease prevention methods. The good news is our continued presence in the northeast region—an area where few organizations have ventured—has resulted in a new clinic being built to serve the northeast region.”

Saturday’s free concert will feature local pianists Jan Jesse and Diane Cooke, who have been performing together for over seven years. Their one-piano-four-hands show will highlight Americana music as well as Spanish dances and light classics by such composers as Diabelli, Kuhlau, Britten, Copland, Leroy Anderson, Sousa and others. “The musical program is designed to appeal to a broad range of tastes,” said Cooke, who is also a longtime resident of Danbury.

Concert admission is free with donations encouraged. Light refreshments will be served after the show. Those unable to attend may send donations to Marycare Inc., 55 King Street, Danbury. CT 06811.

Marycare was incorporated in New Haven, CT, and was approved by the State of CT and federal government as a not for profit organization in 1996. Marycare has established and maintains two schools: one for children in the city slum, Cite Soleil, and another in the rural fishing village of Jacquesyl on the northeast coast.

## **EVENT DETAILS**

Performance: One Piano, Four Hands                      by pianists Jan Jesse and Diane Cooke

Date/Time: Saturday June 17th, 7 pm

Place: Newtown Meeting House, 31 Main St, Newtown, CT

For more information, call: (203)797-1893

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